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THE EAGLE

A PUBLICATION OF ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS OF MICHIGAN

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 17 www.associatednewspapers.net

Local psychiatric hospitals to be replaced by state

A new $325 million state inpatient psychiatric hospital will be constructed at the current site of the Hawthorn Center on Haggerty Road in Northville.

Funding for the new behavioral health building was approved in the fiscal year 2023 state budget, according to Elizabeth Hertel, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) director. The facility will provide care for patients currently being served at both Hawthorn Center and Walter P. Reuther Psychiatric Hospital in Westland.

The two facilities serve nearly 200 patients and are among the five state inpatient psychiatric hospitals for individuals who have severe mental illness or intellectual and developmental disabilities. Hawthorn Center opened in 1956, while Walter Reuther began operations in 1979, and both have aging infrastructure which needs replacement, officials said.

"We are excited to be able to provide Michigan families in need of inpatient, behavioral health care a new state-of-the-art hospital in southeastern Michigan," said Hertel. "The modern facility will allow MDHHS to continue providing quality, compassionate care to both children and adults. The consolidation of two of our current hospitals will also allow for efficiencies in administrative and support services while maintaining separate living and treatment facilities for adults and children."

"Mental health, especially for children, is an urgent need in our region," said Mark Abbo, Northville Township supervisor. "We are pleased to have the opportunity to work with the State of Michigan to develop a state-of-the-art facility to help those in our region in need get the highest possible mental health care."

During construction of the new facility in Northville, staff and patients currently being cared for at Hawthorn Center will be moved to a separate unit at Walter P. Reuther Psychiatric Hospital to allow for the demolition of the current Hawthorn facility.

"DTMB is proud to be a part of this effort to improve the lives of Michiganders most in need of care," said Michelle Lange, director of the Michigan Technology, Management and Budget department. "Our team of construction experts are eager to exercise their skills to ensure that the new psychiatric facility is completed on time and on budget and is a top-notch facility that meets the needs of both the patients and staff."

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced the planned construction of a $325 million psychiatric hospital to replace the Hawthorn Center in Northville and Walter P. Reuther Hospital in Westland.

While the new psychiatric complex will serve all ages, the hospitals will be distinct facilities with separate living and programmatic spaces for children and adults. The complex, however, will include shared administration and food service, officials said.

"The new facility is a perfect example of how the state is leveraging one-time resources for long-term strategic investments," said State Budget Director Christopher Harkins. "We are thoughtfully and deliberately building the new facility on the current Hawthorn Center site, which is a convenient location for staff and patient families, and sustains a relationship with the community of Northville, which has long been a partner to the State of Michigan. This project will provide benefits for years into the future."

Construction is expected to begin this fall and anticipated completion is in 2026.

Safety lessons

Firefighters from the Northville and Plymouth Fire Department along with Plymouth Township Professional Firefighters and crews from Salem, Novi, Metro Airport and Van Buren Township came together to put on a display of skills last week as they simulated real-life fire emergencies. The former office building at Maybury State Park which was scheduled for razing, was donated to the local fire departments for use in the mock burn. The departments worked in tangent to put out the fires and rescue the "victims." The event was also a training opportunity to learn about fire safety and prevention, organizers said.

Photos by Terry Jacoby

Increase in local property values reported by Wayne County

> *The report indicated that increases were unevenly distributed.*

Equalized property tax values in Wayne County are continuing to rise, with values up 9.85 percent over 2022, according to a study performed for county officials said. Communities including Northville, Plymouth and Plymouth Township have experienced sizable gains according to the report.

Equalized values represent those submitted by all 43 county communities.

The equalized value in Wayne County is now $72.3 trillion, an increase of just under $6.5 trillion, officials said

County commissioners received the report last week, during their annual equalization meeting. It was presented by the Department of Management and Budget and is considered the first post-COVID county equalization report.

"There was a feeling that there would be a deep dive in values as a result of COVID, but that didn't happen," commission Chair Alisha Bell (D-Detroit) said. "This report is good news, but it also indicates that there are issues that remain."

The report indicated that average county homeowners will see an increase of 5 percent on July property tax bills, based on taxable value of their homes.

The increase is the maximum allowed under Proposal A, which sets Michigan property tax policy. Without the cap provided by Proposal A, the increase would have been 7.9 percent based on the inflation rate, officials said.

Taxable value represents one-half of the assessed value of the property and is multiplied against millage rates to determine how much a property owner pays in taxes.

Taxable value of county property is now at roughly 98 percent of the historic level recorded in 2007, the last year before the Great Recession, according to the report. Assessed value of county property is now at 109 percent of the 2007 level.

The report indicated that increases were unevenly distributed throughout county communities.

The report noted that while some area communities saw increases, inner-ring communities such as Ecorse, Harper Woods, Highland Park and River Rouge are listed among those with declining values.

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE
Vol. 138, No. 17

The Belleville Community Chorus will present the 16th annual spring concert Life's Musical Sound Stage: Melodies, Meanderings, Memories on Sunday, May 7.

See page 5.

THE CANTON EAGLE
Vol. 76, No. 17

There is a special birthday celebration taking place in Canton Township as the Michigan Shakespeare Festival honors the 459th anniversary of the bard himself.

See page 2.

THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR
Vol. 76, No. 17

Inkster police are still seeking a man with a leg cast who limped away from a road rage infused shooting last week in Inkster.

See page 6.

THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
Vol. 23, No. 17

Efforts to improve street and sidewalk safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicles in downtown Northville may include adjustments to traffic rules.

See page 5.

THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE
Vol. 23, No. 17

The prestigious financial agency Moody's Investors Service recently awarded Plymouth-Canton Community Schools one of the highest ratings available.

See page 3.

THE ROMULUS ROMAN
Vol. 138, No. 17

The deputy city clerk in Romulus, was recently awarded the Michigan Professional Municipal Clerk designation by the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks.

See page 6.

THE WAYNE EAGLE
Vol. 76, No. 17

Emily Lemus, a Wayne Memorial High School senior, has been named as a winner of a $40,000 Amazon Future Engineer Scholarship recipient.

See page 6.

THE WESTLAND EAGLE
Vol. 76, No. 17

Earth Day was celebrated in Westland with awards and recognition of earth-friendly projects and initiatives during a program at Wildwood Elementary School.

See page 6.

Canton

Alas...

Shakespeare's birthday is celebrated with special performances on Cherry Hill stage

There is a special birthday celebration taking place in Canton Township as the Michigan Shakespeare Festival honors the 459th anniversary of the bard himself.

The annual Shakespeare's Birthday Sale will continue only until April 30 offering $35 tickets for the summer performances. Celebrating its 27th season, the Michigan Shakespeare Festival productions will begin July 18, and continue through Aug. 20, at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

Planned performances include Macbeth as well as Pericles, Prince of Tyre and one non-Shakespearean classical piece - Georges Feydeau's A Flea in Her Ear.

Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Janice L. Blixt, the Michigan Shakespeare Festival brings a fresh perspective to the Shakespeare canon each season, while introducing audiences to other classical and modern works, noted a festival spokesman.

With their combined professional talent and skills, the company of actors and artisans makes these plays fresh and easily understood by a modern audience, he added.

In the tragedy of Macbeth "something wicked this way comes . . ." as three witches make a prophecy to a proud warrior that he will be king of Scotland - but will it be through his own actions or the decisions of others? A violent and intense tale of controlling ambition and scruples ignored, Macbeth is one of Shakespeare's most famous and admired works, filled with unforgettable speeches, scenes, and characters.

Pericles, Prince of Tyre, is the story of young Prince Pericles of Tyre, who survives a shipwreck and lands in Pentapolis where the king is having a tournament to find the best knight to wed his daughter, Thaisa.

A seldom-produced Shakespearean play - with parts contributed by other playwrights - Pericles is an example of the pageantry and theatrical style of the Jacobean era - filled with magic, fairy tale intrigues, and unforgettable characters.

Georges Feydeau's A Flea in Her Ear tells the story of jealous spouses reacting to real or possibly imagined infidelities. When happily married Raymonde begins to question whether her marriage really is happy and wonders if her husband, Victor Emmanuel, might be cheating on her, she confides in her best friend Lucienne and the two devise a plan to test him. What follows is a farce of mistaken identities, mistaken rooms, and mistaken motives.

Tickets for each of the shows can be purchased online at https://www.michiganshakespearefestival.com or through The Village Theater at Cherry Hill Box Office by calling (734) 395-5300.

The Michigan Shakespeare Festival will celebrate the 459th birthday of the bard himself with special pricing for three productions in Canton Township this summer.

The Michigan Shakespeare Festival is now headquartered at the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex (PARC). For more information, contact the festival at (517) 998-3673 or visit michiganshakespearefestival.com.

State officer

Canton Township Director of Fire Services Chris Stoecklein was recently named as vice president of the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs. The group is dedicated to assisting members in their efforts to promote effective fire prevention and suppression, emergency medical service and other emergency services through education, technical and legislative means, according to the website.

Applications for popular township police and fire Youth Academy are now available

Teens in Canton Township have the opportunity to experience the inner workings of the public safety department this summer.

The popular Youth Academy organized by the police and fire departments in the township will teach students, ages 13 through 17, about the daily operations of each department, including the philosophy of teamwork. The academy will take place from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Monday, June 26 through Thursday, June 29.

Participants will be provided with lunch each day and light physical activity is scheduled every day, organizers said. The interactive learning experience is designed to promote a greater understanding between the youth in the community and township police officers and firefighters. The experience will help students develop life skills that promote safe, smart thinking and decision making, officials said.

> *The experience will help students develop life skills that promote safe, smart thinking and decision making.*

Individuals attending the free academy will be educated about police and fire department operational procedures through presentations, demonstrations and hands-on activities. Students will gain personal knowledge of the role of law enforcement in the criminal justice system, as well as the firefighter's role of providing emergency services to the community. Attendees will better understand the training and education required for police officers and firefighters to effectively handle the challenges of their professions, organizers explained.

Applicants must be Canton residents, ages 13-17 as of June 26 with no criminal history. Applications will be accepted through May 15 online at https://www.canton-mi.org/1145/Youth-Academy

Class size is limited, organizers said and participants meeting the minimum requirements will be randomly selected. For additional information, contact Community Relations Ofc. Patty Esselink at (734) 394-5194.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, May 11 2023 for the following:

LIGHTING, AUDIO AND MUSIC BACKLINE FOR CANTON LIBERTYFEST

Bid may be downloaded on the MITN Purchasing Group website at https://www.bidnetdirect.com/mitn/cantontownship or you may contact Mike Sheppard at: mike.sheppard@cantonmi.gov. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

MICHAEL SIEGRIST, CLERK

Publish 4/27/2023

CN2486 - 042723 2.5 x 2.071

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed proposals at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, May 11 2023 for the following:

ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR HISTORIC HENRY FORD FACTORY

Bid may be downloaded on the MITN Purchasing Group website at https://www.bidnetdirect.com/mitn/cantontownship or you may contact Mike Sheppard at: mike.sheppard@cantonmi.gov. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

MICHAEL SIEGRIST, CLERK

Publish 4/27/2023

CN2485 - 042723 2.5 x 2.204

Classified

TO PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD CALL 734-467-1900

1. Obituaries

Clare J. Hengesbaugh, 96, passed away Saturday April 22nd, 2023 at his home in Oswego, Illinois surrounded by his family. He was born April 12th, 1927, in Flint, Michigan, son of Lewis and Eleanor (Dillon) Hengesbaugh. Clare proudly served in The United States Navy during World War II. Following his time in the Navy, he was employed at General Motors, then later by The Ford Motor Company in the Quality Control Division for over thirty years. He was an active parishioner at Saint Anne Catholic Church. Clare's faith and family were of the upmost importance to him. He loved sailing on his boat the Tuna II, and Notre Dame Football, but most of all, he enjoyed spending time with his family. Clare is survived by his loving wife of 73 years, Dorothy, three sons; Christopher (Nancy), Steve, Doug, two daughters; Anne (John) Carr, Jane (Mark) Ryan, nine grandchildren; Brian (Kelly), Jillian (Tim), Sean (Caitlin), Greer (Justin), Caitlyn (Marcus), Brendan (Emma), Brett, Claire and Drew; nine great grandchildren; Jack, Sydney, Grant, June, Cara, Bennett, Franklin, Kellen and Ségolène and one sister, Carol (Art) Jacobs. Clare is preceded in death by his parents, three brothers; Frank, Bernard, Theodore and three sisters; Jean, Rita and Eleanor. Family will be receiving guests Wednesday April 26th, 2023 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Dieterle Memorial Home 1120 S. Broadway, Montgomery, Illinois. Funeral Mass will be Thursday April 27th, 2023, 10:00 AM, at Saint Anne Catholic Church 551 Boulder Hill Pass in Oswego, Illinois. The Burial will take place Friday April 28th, 2023 at New Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Flint, Michigan at 2:00 PM. For directions and guestbook, please visit, www.dieterlememorialhome.com or call 1 (630) 897-1196.

30. Help Wanted

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT needed at the First Congregational Church of Wayne, Wayne, Michigan. Strong communication and computer skills, ability to multi-task, and professional customer service required. Part-time position Monday - Thursday, 9am - 1pm. Competitive salary. Send a cover letter and resume to: fccow.churchoffice@gmail.com.

59. Auctions

PUBLIC AUCTION
MARTINS' TOWING
17180 DIX TOLEDO RD
BROWNSTOWN, MI 48193
APRIL 24, 2023
10:00 AM

2019 JEEP
1C4RJFAG3KC810968
2008 SATURN
3GSCL33P68S649440
2007 BMW
WBANF73587CU24679
2008 CHRYSLER
2C3KA53G88H118188
2017 KIA
KNDPR3A65H7067432
2014 CHEVROLET
2GNFLFEK3E6370881
2001 CHEVROLET
1GNCS18W31K219103
2005 CHRYSLER
3C4FY58B15T541722
1998 CHEVROLET
2CNBJ1365W6915126
2010 CHEVROLET
KL1TG6DE8AB107599
2008 FORD
1FMCU93Z48KC45802
2010 CADILLAC
3GYFNDEY9AS628337
2019 KIA
3KPF24AD6KE009292
2014 KIA
5XYKTCA63EG546054
2014 CHRYSLER
2C3CCABG9EH343448
2016 CHEVROLET
1G1ZE5ST4GF229925
2003 SATURN
1G8AG52F23Z151768
2005 CHEVROLET
1GNEK13T05R184491
2008 SATURN
3GSCL33P18S672088
2016 KIA
KNDJP3A56G7297627
2014 CHEVROLET
1G1PC5SB0E7201485
1999 JEEP
1J4GW68N1XC802219
2012 JEEP
1C4AJWAGXCL208518
2001 VOLVO
YV1VS295X1F705875
2003 CHEVROLET
1GNDX03E03D161375
1999 CHEVROLET
1GNDU03E2XD129039
2005 CHEVROLET
2G1WZ121559324501
2021 KIA
5XYP5DHC6MG146554
2006 HYUNDAI
KM8JN12D76U344966
2014 FORD
1FDUF5GY7EEB08730

ON MONDAY, MAY 1ST, 2023 AT 9:00 AM, GREAT LAKES TOWING IMPOUND AND RECOVERY DIVISION LOCATED AT 42350 VAN BORN RD, BELLEVILLE, MI, COUNTY OF WAYNE, WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC AUCTION OF IMPOUNDED AND ABANDONED VEHICLES.
THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER.

2010 CHEVORLET
1G1ZB5EB0AF229603
2016 FORD
3FA6P0T90GR200490
2021 KIA
5XXG64J24MG068357
1992 FORD
1FAPP11J8NW119979

THE ABOVE VEHICLES ARE IMPOUNDED THROUGH THE WESTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT. ALL PAPERWORK MUST BE PICKED UP FROM THE WESTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT WITHIN 48 HOURS OF THE SALE.

ALL VEHICLES ARE SOLD IN "AS IS CONDITION". BIDDING ON ALL VEHICLES WILL START AT THE AMOUNT DUE FOR TOWING AND STORAGE. VEHICLES MAY BE DELETED FROM THIS LIST AT ANY TIME PRIOR TO THE START OF THE AUCTION. THIS IS A CASH ONLY SALE AND ALL VEHICLES MUST BE PAID IN FULL AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE AUCTION.

To place your classified advertisement in The Eagle call (734) 467-1900.

CANTON - PLYMOUTH

School district hosts local health fair Saturday

More than 70 booths focused on mental health and overall wellness as well as creative stations for children, therapy dogs and a "healing with horses" demonstration will fill Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth this Saturday. Free food, a family fun zone and music will also be featured at the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools mental health fair set for 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday, April 29.

Representatives of the school district and several community partners are planning the second annual event to help provide more information about mental health, ways to find support and resources and enjoy food and fun activities.

"Plymouth-Canton Community Schools is excited to stand with our community partners so we can wrap our arms around the challenges of mental and behavioral health together, and that's why we encourage everyone to check out our free mental health fair," said Dr. Monica L. Merritt, superintendent of schools. "Mental health is as important as physical health, and we look forward to sharing information at our fair to support families across our community."

> *Mental health is as important as physical health.*

Premier sponsors of the event include Henry Ford Health, Metro EHS Pediatric Therapy, Community Financial, Michigan Educational Credit Union, Verita Telecommunications Corp., Growth Works, the City of Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton Township.

"Families can gain valuable insights into the importance of mental health and wellness at Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' Second Annual Mental Health Fair," said Kathy Grodus, district psychologist and mental health manager at the Office of Student and Family Engagement. "Children and adolescents today are confronting a number of mental health challenges, with depression and anxiety being among the most common issues seen in schools. These problems can have a profound impact, leaving students feeling sad, hopeless, and disengaged from activities they once enjoyed. At P-CCS's fair, families can learn about mental health and wellness resources, as well as available support. By partnering with our mental health agencies and working collaboratively, we can create a brighter and more inclusive future for everyone."

Plymouth-Canton schools earns excellent financial rating

The prestigious financial agency Moody's Investors Service recently awarded Plymouth-Canton Community Schools one of the highest ratings available.

Officials said the district had completed another major milestone in implementing a voter-approved initiative to improve academic, athletic and other student resources.

"Plymouth-Canton Community Schools is focused on supporting student needs at all levels for years to come, and doing so in a fiscally responsible and transparent way," Superintendent pf Schools Dr. Monica L. Merritt said. "Moody's Aa2 rating is a recognition of P-CCS's commitment to being good stewards of our financial resources. Much of the important work of the bond program will enhance and preserve our facilities for many years to come."

In awarding its Aa2 rating, Moody's report cited the district track record of spending within its means, sound budget management, and a stable financial profile despite enrollment changes during the COVID-19 pandemic across Michigan. Moody's also noted the ability of the district to attract students through the open enrollment period.

Merritt and the members of the board of education recently announced that the district successfully raised $99 million through bond sales as part of a voter approved election in 2020. The district offered $87.5 million in bonds, but received a premium of $12 million based on the financial stability of the schools. The sale is the second of three scheduled actions toward generating the total $275 million voter approved measure. Work has already been completed on numerous projects throughout the district, officials said, including: major enhancements to school safety and security in the form of a centralized command center, call boxes, enhanced lighting, secured building entrances, cameras and other technology and security staff additions; improvements to students' learning experience, including flexible furniture upgrades in K-12 classrooms, upgraded technology, more academic resources, new playgrounds and more welcoming and secure environments and new state-of-the-art lighting and acoustics, as well as expanded seating and amenities at the auditorium.

> *Work has already been completed on numerous projects throughout the district.*

Work on a new natatorium and athletic center set for completion in 2024 has begun and planning for a state-of-the-art Innovation Hub is under way.

"At P-CCS, we are committed to fiscal responsibility and we are proud to receive this recognition by Moody's and plan to build on it in the days ahead," said Plymouth Canton community Schools Board of Education Treasurer Patrick Kehoe.

"Our board is proud to help support our school's mission of providing a world-class education for our students and keeping our promises to implement the recently passed school bond to take our district to the next level. We want to thank our community for their continued support of our district, staff, and students," he added.

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MOTHER'S DAY
SUNDAY
MAY
14TH
BRUNCH
BUFFET SEATINGS:
10am* • NOON* • 2pm*
$59 Adults • $20 for ages 3-10
Buffet will include:
Breakfast items • Omelettes • Crepes • Baked French Toast
Scrambled Eggs • Breakfast Potatoes • Bacon • Sausage
And many more of your favorites...
Salads • Carving Station • Chicken • Pasta • Seafood • Various Desserts
*Buffet only at these times
DINNER RESERVATIONS AVAILABLE AT 4:30PM
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Westland

Mayor visits school to help students celebrate Earth Day

Earth Day was celebrated in Westland with awards and recognition of earth-friendly projects and initiatives during a program at Wildwood Elementary School.

Westland Mayor Michael P. Londeau highlighted the accomplishments of both the city and the Wayne-Westland Community Schools, during the celebration and presented Environmental Champion awards to Westland City Council President Pro-Tem Andrea Rutkowski and Wildwood students and Principal Christine Swanson. The award recognized the "A Bench for Caps" program. The special recycled benches were built by Wildwood students and presented to the city as part of their bottle cap collection project.

During the event, city officials distributed free seed packets and free LED lightbulbs and the new Westland Police Department F-150 EV Lightning truck and other EV vehicles were on display.

Londeau delivered the 2023 Mission Green Sustainability Report and announced that the city recycling program collected more than 54,000 tons of recyclable materials since the curbside program began in 2008/2009. More than 3,000 tons have been collected since the summer of 2021, he said.

A 2022 recycling grant through the recycling partnership helped lower the Westland contamination rate in the curbside recycling program by 12 percent, according to the report.

In addition, the tree replacement program has planted 484 trees city wide since 2017.

Londeau said the city has worked with multiple organizations applying for grant funding for the planting of trees within the city.

He added that the city purchased the first Electric F-150 for the police department and will soon be adding 20 hybrid police interceptor Ford Explorers to the fleet. He added that there are currently electric vehicle charging statins at Westland City Hall and at Tattan Park.

The Walk & Roll Plan in the city is providing enhances access to paths for pedestrians and bikers and the city has opened the Wildwood Bikeway, a 3.5 mile bicycle lane on Wildwood from Warren to Glenwood.

The city has installed new LED lighting in the renovation of buildings and new streetlights in the community. The various projects will be completed in phases and several will be funded by grants from community partners, Londeau said.

Westland District Court sobriety program proven successful

The effectiveness of the Sobriety Court program at the 18th District Court in Westland was recently recognized in a report from the Michigan Supreme Court.

The state court released the FY 2022 Problem-Solving Courts Annual Report, tracking the progress and highlighting the success of 207 problem-solving courts across Michigan from Oct. 1, 2021 to Sept. 30, 2022. The Westland Sobriety Court, developed in 2014, is a program designed to help individuals overcome issues such as substance abuse and lower high recidivism rates for repeat drinking and driving offenders.

"Our Sobriety Court is a lot of hard work, but it is all worth it. I have been told more than once that I have saved a probationer's life," said 18th District Court Chief Judge Mark A. McConnell. "The change in some of our participant's lives is unbelievable. Presiding over a treatment court is the most important function I perform as a district judge. It is really true that our state's treatment courts are lifesaving, and providing a great benefit to our local communities."

Judge Sandra Ference Cicirelli is also pleased with the success and effectiveness of the Sobriety Court.

"As a treatment court judge, I have witnessed firsthand the remarkable changes in our participant's lives. Even people who are at first reluctant to enter the intensive 15-18-month program, have expressed their gratitude at graduation. There is no doubt in my mind that treatment courts save lives."

> *I have been told more than once that I have saved a probationer's life.*

The study noted that state adult drug and sobriety programs grew from 98 programs in 2018 to109 programs in 2022. The study also revealed that graduates of adult drug court programs were, on average, more than three times less likely to be convicted of a new offense within three years of admission to a program. In addition, sobriety court graduates who used an ignition interlock device were nearly five times less likely to be convicted of a new offense within three years of admission, according to the report.

The study also concluded that unemployment dropped by 88 percent for adult drug court graduates, 86 percent for sobriety court graduates and 85 percent for hybrid court (drug/sobriety) graduates.

Problem-solving courts focus on providing treatment and intense supervision to offenders as an alternative to incarceration, officials said. Alternative programs include drug and sobriety, mental health, veterans, and other nontraditional courts. The Michigan State Court Administrative Office, assists trial court judges in the management of these courts by providing training, education, operational standards, monitoring, certification requirements, and funding.

"Problem-solving courts exemplify how we are working to increase public trust and confidence in the judiciary through collaboration and compassion-an overarching goal of our Michigan Judicial Council," said Justice Kyra H. Bolden, the problem-solving court liaison for the Michigan Supreme Court. "What struck me the most about this report is that these pages are not just filled with numbers and milestones; they are filled with hope and humanity."

Tattan Park set to reopen

A $3 million Mission to Mars upgrade to Tattan Park in Westland will include towering rocket ships, lunar rovers, slides, and play activities with zero gravity, city officials said.

The current Play Planet playground is being relocated to Lincoln-Johnson Field in the Westland Historic Norwayne District at 33300 Grand Traverse. The new playground will feature an immersive, kid-friendly dinosaur splashpad and is expected to open for Memorial Weekend Day weekend, the city officials added. Tattan Park is located at 36601 Ford Road.

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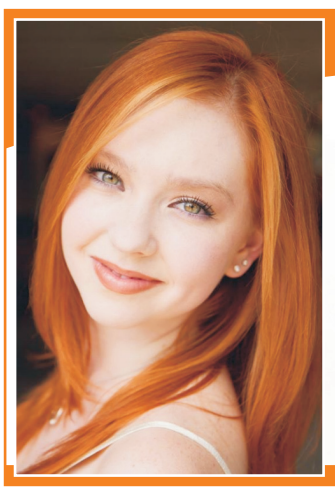

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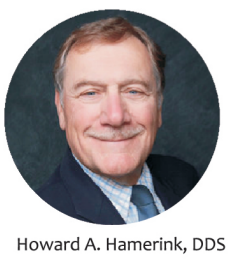
Wednesday 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Friday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Saturday 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

John D. Hamerink, M.S., D.D.S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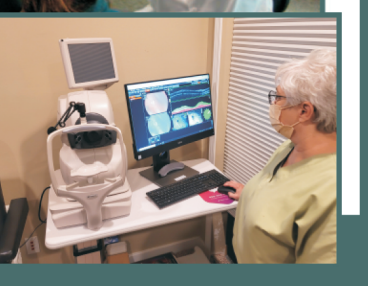

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BELLEVILLE - NORTHVILLE

Council considering plans for downtown pedestrians

Efforts to improve street and sidewalk safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicles in downtown Northville may include adjustments to traffic lights and the installation of some no turn on red signs.

Julie Kroll, an engineer with Fleis and Vandenbrink, presented the first part of a two-phase report on measures the city can take to improve street and sidewalk safety during a recent meeting of the Northville City Council. Her report, The Northville Downtown Pedestrian Study, incorporated design elements proposed by Grissim Metz and Andriese (GMA) as well as input from the Mobility Network, a group of 10 volunteer citizens.

Fleis and Vandenbrink engineers adjusted the report following the decision of the city council members to make the downtown street closures seasonal rather than permanent. Among the recommendations were the adjustment of traffic lights to give pedestrians advance time to cross the street before vehicles can turn into the crosswalk along with the addition of some "No turn on red" signs. The report also suggest the installation of rectangular rapid flashing beacons in high-traffic areas for pedestrian crossings and the removal of street parking from downtown intersections and within 20 feet of crosswalks.

> *Among the recommendations was the adjustment of traffic lights.*

The second phase is an engineering study of traffic flow and volumes, which began in April, and includes the downtown area as well as non-arterial roads between Seven and Eight Mile roads between Rogers and S. Main/Northville Road.

Maybury Farm Summer Camp helps kids cope with grief

New Hope Center for Grief Support is offering its eighth annual Kid's Camp at Maybury Farm, this summer for children ages 4-14, who have experienced the death of a loved one.

Camp takes place from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. July 20 and 21.

Sessions each day include activities such as soccer with the Michigan Jaguars, songwriting with Lost Voices, team building activities with former Detroit Lion Eric Hipple, yoga, equestrian horse therapy, art therapy, and other activities. Each activity is designed to open a dialogue about the emotions of grief. Children who attend camp gain resources and skills that help them better understand and communicate these emotions, and those skills are a lifelong benefit to campers, organizers said. The tools that Kid's Camp provides not only help children through their grief journey; they can also be applied to other challenges and can lead to overall improved mental health outcomes for children affected by grief.

At New Hope Kid's Camp, children can engage with others their age with similar experiences, learn about the emotions of grief and healthy coping skills, and grow through the experience with a stronger support system. They can share their stories and hear others, so they know that they are not alone in their grief.

> *Camp takes place from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. July 20 and 21.*

This year, the theme for New Hope Center for Grief Support's Kid's Camp is "Tackling Grief" with New Hope.

Sponsors of Kid's Camp, including MASCO, the Northville Township Firefighters Charity, Community Financial, Growth Works, the Rotary Club of Northville, and many more local community mental health agencies.

New Hope Kid's Camp is free of charge and is open to any child ages 4-14 affected by the loss of a loved one. Registration is required. Teens and adults who have experienced loss or want to help support children are also encouraged to volunteer at camp. Visit the New Hope website, www.newhopecenter.net, or call New Hope Center for Grief Support at (248) 348-0115 for further information.

Belleville Community Chorus sets date for annual spring concert

The Belleville Community Chorus will present the 16th annual spring concert, Life's Musical Sound Stage: Melodies, Meanderings, Memories, at 5 p.m. Sunday, May 7. The performance will feature a variety of songs ranging from classic Rock 'n' Roll to popular movie themes, organizers said.

The concert will be performed at the Belleville United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St., Belleville. The concert will be directed by Mary Butler Loring with accompaniment by Judith Weed, backed by drummer Joe Laurell, bass player Eston Keller, and electric guitarist Eric Loring..

The concert is free, though donations are encouraged, and sponsors are welcome.

The Belleville Community Chorus offers opportunities for performance of mixed voice choral music in a variety of styles. The chorus strives to improve musical quality through education and commitment to a rehearsal and performance schedule. The generosity of donors and sponsors supports community activities including education, rehearsal, performance and entertainment. The Belleville Community Chorus is a 501(C)3 not-for-profit organization.

Class act

Sergeant Bart Devos Jr. and Officers Kenneth Toney, Rodriguez, and Gibson were a welcome attraction at the recent 2023 Keystone Academy Spring Carnival. The officers were, of course, chosen by the students to help them with the Donut Toss.

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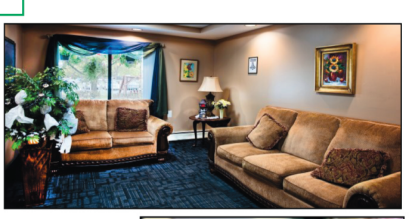

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Inkster - Romulus

Romulus Deputy Clerk earns state designation

D'Sjonaun Hockenhull, the deputy city clerk in Romulus, was recently awarded the Michigan Professional Municipal Clerk designation by the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks.

The program was launched in January 2014 to encourage city, township and village clerks to seek continuing education specifically related to the duties of Michigan clerks. The Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks was founded on the belief that a focus on education is essential for municipal clerks to provide informed, quality leadership for their communities in the face of constant legislative change and increased demands on Michigan public servants, according to a prepared statement from the association.

A clerk must invest in a minimum of 120 hours of educational programming during three years to qualify for certification, and must continue to obtain education points to maintain the certification.

"Whether elected or appointed, municipal clerks serve a powerful role in coordinating public programs and influencing legislative initiatives. Deputy City Clerk Hockenhull is to be commended for the hard work, perseverance and commitment expended to attaining the certification and the dedication to providing quality service to the public and the municipality he serves," noted the prepared release from the association.

Police seek limping suspect in road rage gunfire incident

Inkster police are still seeking a man with a leg cast who limped away from a shooting following a traffic accident last week in Inkster.

The shooting followed an auto accident when a woman driving a blue Chevrolet Equinox crashed into the rear of an off-white-colored Ford Escape at about 2:25 last Wednesday, April 19. The incident shut down a section of Inkster Road near Avondale as police responded to the scene of the shooting.

According to police reports, witnesses said the driver of the Ford Escape left his vehicle and told the Equinox driver, "You f..... up my mom's car" before pulling a handgun and firing shots at the two women still seated in the blue car.

A witness to the incident used his phone to video the suspected shooter hobbling away from the scene wearing a cast on his leg. No one was injured in the shooting but the two women in the Equinox were treated by emergency medical personnel for cuts and bruises sustained in the crash.

> "It's unfortunate that people feel it's okay to open fire in a populated area"

Inkster Police Chief Bill Ratliff said incidents such as this are becoming more frequent across the country. He said this appeared to be an incident of road rage. "It's unfortunate that people feel it's okay to open fire in a populated area like this," Ratliff said.

"The more concerning thing to me, is that if it is a result of road rage, people just need to be more patient," Ratliff told reporters. "The fact that you would feel that it's okay to fire rounds into a vehicle involved in a crash. It's called an accident for a reason."

Future engineer

Emily Lemus, a Wayne Memorial High School senior, has been named an Amazon Future Engineer Scholarship recipient. She will receive $40,000 during four years to pursue a computer science or engineering degree at a college of her choice. Lemus is one of 400 students nationwide to receive the award and a paid internship offer at Amazon after her first year of college to gain hands-on, practical work experience with mentorship from Amazon leaders.

Summoned

Community Day set at district court

Area residents will have their day in court next month during the second annual Community Day at the Court.

Judges at the 34th District Court in Romulus have invited the public to enjoy a car show, food trucks, public safety demonstrations, pet adoptions along with tours of the court building from noon until 6 p.m. May 5. The event at the court, which serves Belleville, Huron Township, Romulus, Sumpter Township and Van Buren Township, is open to the public, area wide.

"We are thrilled to showcase our new facility and be able to host a day of fun for the community," commented Chief Judge Brian A. Oakley.

The newly-constructed 34th District Court building is located at 11129 Wayne Road in Romulus. The court is located in the City of Romulus Municipal Complex and the new building opened to the public for the first time last year. It is a state-of-the-art facility, comprising two stories, four court rooms and provides 50,000 square feet of space to accommodate all court functions.

Several community agencies are scheduled to be on site at the event including Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency, Michigan Youth Challenge Academy, Growth Works, Kroger, Romulus Christian Ministerial Alliance, Share Detroit, and Hegira Health, Inc.

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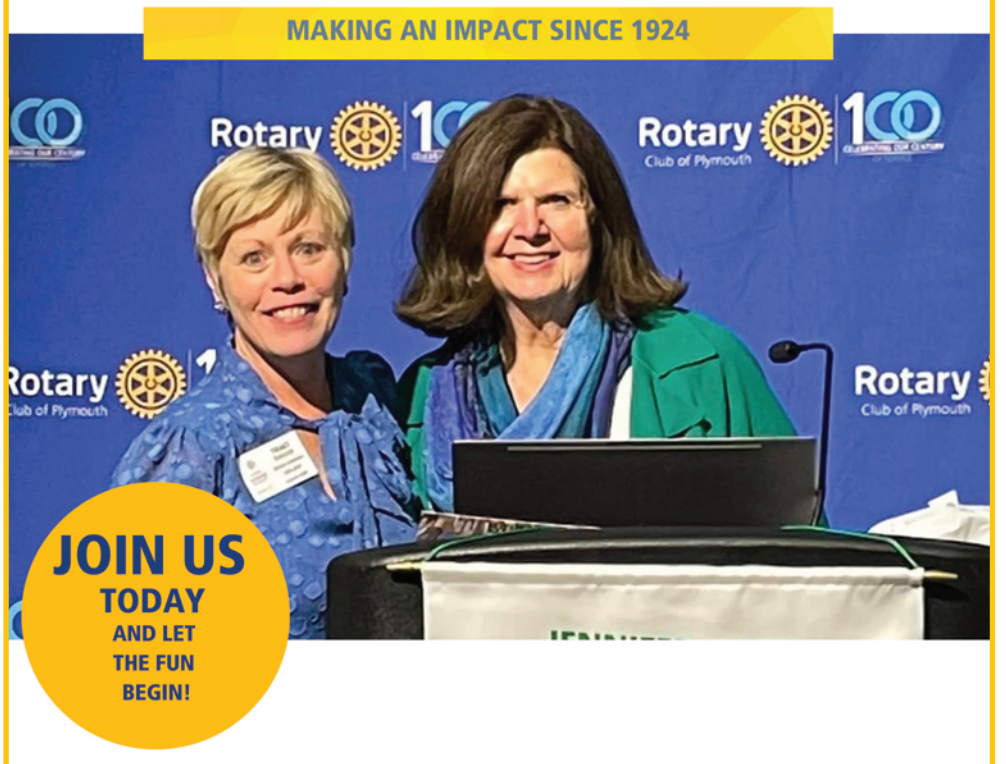

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- Local park and community beautification
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- National and international clean water projects
- Ukraine relief for medical equipment and supplies
- Global polio eradication

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